

Though critics have argued that the idea of reparations is unworkable politically or financially, their focus on money misses the point of the H.R. 40 commission's mandate.

The goal of these historical investigations is to bring American society to a new reckoning with how our past affects the current conditions of African Americans and to make America a better place by helping the truly disadvantaged.

Consequently, the reparations movement does not focus on payments to individuals, but to remedies that can be created in as many forms necessary to equitably address the many kinds of injuries sustained from chattel slavery and its continuing vestiges.

To merely focus on finance is an empty gesture and betrays a lack of understanding of the depth of the unaddressed moral issues that continue to haunt this nation.

While it might be convenient to assume that we can address the current divisive racial and political climate in our nation through race neutral means, experience shows that we have not escaped our history.

Though the Civil Rights Movement challenged many of the most racist practices and structures that subjugated the African American community, it was not followed by a commitment to truth and reconciliation.

For that reason, the legacy of racial inequality has persisted, and left the nation vulnerable to a range of problems that continue to yield division, racial disparities and injustice.

Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation—and the hope that one day, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future.

We owe it to those who were ripped from their homes those many years ago an ocean away; we owe it to the millions of Americans—yes they were Americans—who were born into bondage, knew a life of servitude, and died anonymous deaths, as prisoners of this system.

We owe it to the millions of descendants of these slaves, for they are the heirs to a society of inequities and indignities that naturally filled the vacuum after slavery was formally abolished 154 years ago.

Let us also do with the spirit of reconciliation and understanding that this bill represents.

Finally, if we truly want to build better, brighter future, we can't do it on a rotten foundation. Therefore, for the house that is America, we must repair the damage caused by the original crime that separates us. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

The H.R. 40 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans must be created by executive order. Today we call on President Biden to right this historical wrong and take a monumental step towards reparative justice.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Today, O God, we lay before You our petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving. We request that You bestow upon us the joy of Your presence among us, that when we look upon the faces of those who labor in these Halls, known and unknown, elected or employed, we may see Your image.

We pray for the health and welfare of this illustrious body, that as the scenery changes and the actors move on, around, or off the stage, You will uphold each one. Guide them in the roles You have called them to fulfill and grant them wisdom to discern the way You would have them go.

Lord, may our prayers serve as an intercession for those who do not have enough courage or strength to speak their own needs, for those who haven't enough faith to trust what lies ahead, and for those who do not know how to receive the mercy You offer us.

Then accept our offerings of thanksgiving to You for the bounty You lay before us—the gift to labor, to serve, and to contribute our energies wherever You call us, but especially here in this, our Nation's Capital.

May our words be good and pleasing to You as we pray them in Your most holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CELEBRATING PASSAGE OF THE SPEAK OUT ACT

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of the Speak Out Act.

As the co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence, I have seen how perpetrators of workplace sexual assault and harassment hide behind nondisclosure agreements to sweep their heinous conduct under the rug.

Let's remember that the vast majority of assault and harassment in the workplace goes unreported, and most perpetrators are never held accountable. It takes tremendous courage for survivors to come forward.

I am so proud that under the leadership of Speaker NANCY PELOSI, this House overwhelmingly passed the Speak Out Act yesterday, and we have sent this commonsense, bipartisan bill to the President's desk.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Career Development Month.

As co-chair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus, I was proud to introduce the National Career Development Month resolution last week with my CTE Caucus co-chair and good friend, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN.

National Career Development Month raises awareness of future career opportunities and development programs for all individuals. A highly skilled workforce is a business's number one asset and provides a competitive edge.

National Career Development Month also is a time to recognize the professionals who guide learners to become leaders of tomorrow.

Throughout the month, schools and businesses will have the chance to showcase different career paths that align with various interests and skills. These opportunities will better prepare students as they begin to enter the workforce.

As we continue through National Career Development Month, I encourage employers, students, and workers of all ages to take advantage of career development, putting them in the driver's seat of their careers.

TURNING TRANSGENDER AWARENESS INTO ACTION

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Transgender Awareness Week.

Trans Americans made history this year by running and winning in more elections than ever before. Breakthrough representations in media have

led to historic numbers of transgender and nonbinary characters on screen. In many ways, transgender Americans are more visible than ever.

At the same time, the trans community has been forced to withstand severe attacks from laws that would strip fundamental rights to dehumanizing vitriol deployed by elected officials and public figures. These attacks treat trans people as threats to society rather than neighbors, parents, children, friends, and loved ones.

There are more than 2 million people in the United States that identify as transgender or nonbinary. Trans Americans exist in all walks of life all across the country. This transgender week, I call on my colleagues to turn awareness into action.

To the trans community, you have allies in Congress. Let it be known that there has been no greater friend of trans people in this country or LGBTQ people than Speaker NANCY PELOSI.

We will not cease the fight to protect and advocate for our transgender siblings, not just this week but all year long.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT JOHN GARDNER

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the 2022 Army Congressional Fellow, Master Sergeant John Gardner, for his service to the Second District of South Carolina.

His yearlong service with the office is ending, and John will be missed. Not only has he been an indispensable coordinator and contributor to legislative goals, including the National Defense Authorization Act, but also a valued team player.

Including a combat tour on the front line as an infantry medic in Iraq, John has held many leadership assignments throughout his 20-year decorated career in the Army, including most recently in the Defense Attache Office of the American Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

John hails from Houston, Texas. He has a master's degree from Colorado State and holds two graduate degrees. His next assignment is in the Pentagon, where John will be a valued participant in peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

Godspeed, Speaker NANCY PELOSI.

EXPANDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need

to tackle the affordable housing crisis. The cost of housing is the single biggest challenge facing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Last week, I hosted an affordable housing conference in Attleboro with my friend and colleague Juana Matias, the HUD regional administrator for New England. We spoke with housing officials and developers across the district about the programs and funding available for affordable housing development. I reiterated my commitment to policies from zoning reform to LIHTC expansion to increased production of affordable housing.

Expanding affordable housing is a multigovernment effort that needs support on the Federal, State, and local levels. As the next Congress approaches, we must recommit ourselves to making housing more affordable for working families.

HONORING CHRISTINA SCHAUER

(Mrs. HINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HINSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christina Schauer, a veteran and nurse from Dubuque, Iowa, whose courage and dedication to serving others are unmatched.

Christina served our country overseas as a combat medic in Iraq. Our veterans face immense challenges when returning home, and unfortunately, our women veterans are often afraid to speak up about their experiences. They may feel invisible or that their service wasn't worthy. As a result, they may be less likely to seek the care that they have earned.

Christina is working to right this wrong by sharing her own story. She has championed women veteran visibility, empowering her sisters in sacrifice to talk more about their service and seek the healthcare and the benefits they deserve.

So, Christina, thank you for your service and for your commitment to empower women veterans. You are an inspiration to all of us.

HONORING KAREN SUTTON

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Karen Sutton, who recently passed away after a long, hard fight with cancer.

Karen spent much of her life in Springfield and was a valued member of our community, always volunteering and attending events all the way up to a few weeks before she passed.

After a long and successful career in data processing, Karen retired from the Illinois Department of Health in 2002.

Karen spent much of her time in the bowling alley, playing in multiple leagues and eventually becoming the league secretary.

Karen also enjoyed traveling to national Mustang shows, where she won many awards. These shows, put on by the Mustang Club of America, allowed Karen to connect with the community of drivers from all over the Nation, whom she greatly valued. She was also praised for her hard work in helping the judging secretaries during these fun yet competitive events.

I am grateful to have known Karen and her husband, Carroll, for many years, and I am thankful for all of her work to make our community a better place to live.

Karen is survived by her husband, Carroll; daughter, Julie; and son, Brent. My condolences to the entire Sutton family during this difficult time.

Karen, may you rest in peace.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU ON ITS 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100-year anniversary of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

The Mississippi Farm Bureau is the largest agriculture organization in the State and represents the social and economic interests of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

Its statewide grassroots structure allows it to be an effective organization, representing and promoting 17 commodities in Mississippi.

The organization is a valuable resource on issues of importance to our farm families, and it works with Federal and State lawmakers to advocate for these priorities.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Mississippi Farm Bureau on important agriculture issues in the future.

May God bless our farmers, and may God continue to bless the Mississippi Farm Bureau.

□ 1215

CALIFORNIA GOING DOWN IN FLAMES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, as I watch my home State of California go down in flames, literally, as we watch how we are running out of electricity, we are running out of water, our store shelves are having less and less food varieties available, our farmers being pushed out of business, our farmworkers being pushed out of business, as we see all of these things happen with mandates coming down the pike, requiring more and more electricity has to be renewable, what is the answer in California?